

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Reserve  
aF767  
.M43V57  
2008



# Visitor Guide

AUG 30 2011

## Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland



### **SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE/HEAD- QUARTERS**

2468 Jackson Street  
Laramie, WY 82070-6535  
(307) 745-2300  
1-800-877-9965 (TTY)  
[www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr)

### **BRUSH CREEK-HAYDEN RANGER DISTRICT**

South Hwy 130/230, PO Box 249  
Saratoga, WY 82331  
(307) 326-5258

### **DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT**

2250 E. Richards Street  
Douglas, WY 82633  
(307) 358-4690

### **HAHNS PEAK-BEARS EARS RANGER DISTRICT**

925 Weiss Drive  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487-9315  
(970) 870-2299

### **LARAMIE RANGER DISTRICT**

2468 Jackson Street  
Laramie, WY 82070-6535  
(307) 745-2300

### **PARKS RANGER DISTRICT**

100 Main Street, PO Box 158  
Walden, CO 80480  
(970) 723-8204

### **PARKS RANGER DISTRICT**

2103 E. Park Avenue, PO Box 1210  
Kremmling, CO 80459  
(970) 724-3000

### **YAMPA RANGER DISTRICT**

300 Roselawn Avenue, PO Box 7  
Yampa, CO 80483  
(970) 638-4516

**W**elcome to Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland! Visitor opportunities abound on the 2,883,943 acres of Forests and Grassland.

**T**he Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests extend from north central Colorado to central Wyoming. The Forests encompass portions of many mountain ranges including the Gore Range, Flat Tops, Parks Range, Elkhead, Medicine Bow Mountains, Sierra Madre, and Laramie Range. The Forests provide year-round recreation opportunities for thousands of people. They also provide wildlife habitat, timber, forage for livestock, and are a vital source of water for irrigation, domestic use, and industry.

**T**he topography varies greatly within the Forests due to the large geographic area encompassed. Elevations range from 5,500 feet to 12,940 feet. The climate of the Forests ranges from semi-arid at low elevations to cold and humid in the high country. Frost may occur at any time, and visitors to the higher elevations should be prepared for harsh weather, including snow and high winds, even during the summer months. Different districts administer different areas of each forest. References to these districts appear on a map and in sections of this guide. For more information, please contact the district offices listed on this page.

**T**he Thunder Basin National Grassland is located in northeastern Wyoming in the Powder River Basin between the Big Horn Mountains and the Black Hills. The Grassland ranges in elevation from 3,600 feet to 5,200 feet and the climate is semi-arid. The Grassland provides unique opportunities for recreation, including hiking, sightseeing, hunting, and fishing. There are no developed campgrounds; however, camping is allowed. The Grassland abounds with wildlife year-round, provides forage for livestock, and is underlain with vast mineral resources. Land patterns are very complex because of the intermingled federal, state, and private lands. The Douglas Ranger District administers the Grassland.







## Recreation Opportunities

### ATVS AND 4WD

Regulations for ATVs differ greatly between Wyoming and Colorado. Please call district offices for specific off-road regulations for all motorized vehicles, registration, equipment, and driver license information. Free motor vehicle use maps are available at district offices. Please remember to “Tread Lightly!”.

### BOATING AND RAFTING

Boating is limited to non-motorized watercraft on the lakes with a few exceptions (please see boating notes with the campground listings). The North Platte River is a popular waterway for rafting and kayaking in the late spring and early summer, and some parts are suitable for canoeing. For information on canoeing, rafting, and kayaking on the North Platte River, please contact the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District at (307) 326-5258. All motor boats must be registered. Call (307) 777-4600 (WY) or (303) 791-1920 (CO) for information on boating regulations and registration.

### DISPERSED CAMPING

Camping outside of a campground is allowed in many areas on the Forests and Grassland. Regulations allow camping in dispersed areas for a maximum of 21 days in Wyoming and a maximum of 14 days in Colorado. There are certain areas where dispersed camping is prohibited. These are usually posted but please familiarize yourself with the area rules.

### FISHING AND HUNTING

Secluded mountain lakes and streams await anglers. Many different species of trout are present and provide numerous opportunities for fishing. The Forests also contains a variety of game ranges and habitat. Big game on the Forests include: elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, moose and black bear. Several small game species and game birds are also hunted. Please call the Wyoming Game & Fish Department at (307) 777-4600 or the Colorado Division of Wildlife at (303) 297-1192 for fishing and hunting regulations and information.

### GROUP CAMPGROUNDS

Use of the following group campgrounds require reservations and a fee; Ryan Park on the Brush Creek–Hayden Ranger District, Seedhouse Campground on the Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District, Pole Creek on the Laramie Ranger District and Teal Lake on the Parks Ranger District. Reservations can be made at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service at (877) 444-6777, TDD: 877-833-8777.

### HIKING

The Forests are ideal for short hiking trips that range from a couple of hours to 3 days and more. Trails vary in length, degree of difficulty, and amount of use. Most hiking is done in summer and early fall. Some trailheads require a day use fee; these areas are posted. Trail maps are available at district offices.

### HORSEBACK RIDING AND HORSE CAMPING

The Forests and Grassland offer many trails suitable for horseback riding. Horses are allowed on the hiking trails unless a trail is designated for foot travel only. There are several dude ranches and outfitters in the area that rent horses for trail rides and pack trips. Horses are not allowed in or near campgrounds but are permitted in some dispersed campsites. Only certified weed-free hay or processed feed may be brought on to the Forests and Grassland for feed. In some Wilderness Areas, only processed feed may be used. Tree-saver straps for picket lines and portable corrals are recommended. Please call district offices for more information on horse camping opportunities on the Forests and Grassland.

### MOUNTAIN BIKING

Many backcountry roads and trails offer excellent opportunities for mountain biking. Trail maps are available at district offices. Bicycles are not allowed in Wilderness Areas.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

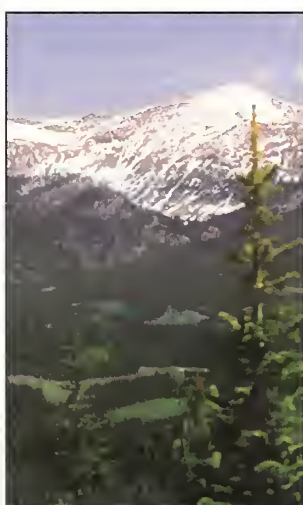
Beautiful scenery, wildlife, colorful foliage, rushing streams and rivers, and rugged mountaintops offer the photographer an infinite number of subjects. Commercial/professional use of still photography equipment, motion picture equipment, or videotaping equipment on National Forest lands requires a Special Use Permit. Please contact district offices if you are considering these types of use.

### PICNICKING

There are many developed day use picnic grounds available. Overnight camping is not allowed in picnic areas unless posted. Many of the picnic grounds are free but some of them require fees and/or reservations. Reservations for Bottle Creek, on the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District or Hidden Valley on the Laramie Ranger District can be made at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service at (877) 444-6777 TDD: 877-833-8777. Please call ranger districts for additional information.

### RECREATIONAL MINING

While recreational metal detecting can legally take place on most areas of the Forests, it is not recommended for the following reasons: 1) archaeological clearance must be obtained before any digging or ground disturbing takes place, and, 2) anything recovered within the jurisdictional boundaries of the National Forest is considered property of the United States. Panning for gold is allowed in most areas of the Forests, but Wilderness areas are not open to mineral activities of any kind, including panning. Recreational dredging permits must be obtained through the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality with concurrence from the Forest Service. In Colorado, please contact district offices before undertaking any mineral activity.





# Highlights and Scenic Attractions

## BRUSH CREEK/HAYDEN RANGER DISTRICT

**SNOWY RANGE SCENIC BYWAY** – The Mirror Lake Picnic Ground at Medicine Bow Peak has picnic sites, toilets, a fishing platform, walking paths and an historic CCC rock building to visit. All are accessible to people with disabilities. Some parking spots are designated accessible parking. Lake Marie at Medicine Bow Peak has a parking lot, toilets, and handicap accessible walking path that follows the southeast shore of Lake Marie. The Brush Creek Visitor Center is near the National Forest boundary on Highway 130. It is open from May through September, weather permitting and is a great place to pick up area information and stretch your legs.

**KENNADAY PEAK** – The Kennaday Peak Fire Lookout was one of the last manned fire lookouts in the area. The lookout is now closed, but the mountaintop can be driven to, using National Forest System Road 215. The view from Kennaday Peak is a 360-degree panorama of surrounding mountains and the Platte River Valley.

**BATTLE HIGHWAY** – The Battle Highway, State Highway 70, crosses the Continental Divide and Sierra Madre Mountains from Encampment to Baggs. The 28-mile stretch of Highway 70 that lies within the National Forest is only open June through October, weather permitting. Several historic sites are located along the highway including the Battle townsite and Edison Monument. The mining town of Battle flourished in the late 1890s and early 1900s. The Edison Monument is a stone marker noting Thomas Edison's fishing visit to Battle Lake. The Continental Divide parking area provides a wide vista of the Sierra Madre Range, Little Snake River valley and Platte River valley. In autumn, the drive over the Continental Divide to the western Forest boundary can be ablaze with color. Aspen Alley is a popular destination for viewing Aspens in full color. The Battle Creek Overlook offers a scenic panorama of the Continental Divide, Battle Mountain and peaks in Northwest Colorado.

**HOG PARK** – Hog Park lies south of Encampment, near the Colorado-Wyoming state line. During the late 1890s and early 1900s, this large tie-hack camp produced railroad ties for the Union Pacific Railroad. Evidence of this historic logging activity can still be found in the area. The Hog Park Reservoir was built in the 1960s for water storage and is a popular area for camping, fishing, and boating.

**GRAND ENCAMPMENT MUSEUM** – The Grand Encampment Museum is the official repository of USDA Forest Service memorabilia. It is located in Encampment, Wyoming and includes over a dozen historical buildings filled with artifacts representing the timber, mining, and agricultural history of the Encampment valley. Plan to stop while in the area.

## DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT

**LARAMIE PEAK UNIT** – Laramie Peak is the highest point in the Laramie Mountains with an elevation of 10,272 feet. Emigrants who traveled on the Oregon and Mormon trails used the Peak as a guidepost. Laramie Peak was the first "Rocky Mountain" they saw from vantage points as far away as Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The Peak was also a forewarning of the rugged crossing of the Continental Divide that lay ahead. There is a steep 4.8-mile trail to the top of Laramie Peak that is open to ATVs, horses, bicycles, and hikers. This trail offers a panoramic view of southeastern Wyoming. The Laramie Peak trailhead is located ¼ mile from the Friend Park Campground and requires a \$5.00/vehicle parking fee or day use pass. Forest Road 671 offers access to the trailhead.

**LABONTE CANYON** – LaBonte Canyon is an area of steep granite rock formations suited for hiking and photography. The scenic steep canyon walls, groves of aspen, and stands of conifer can be viewed from Forest Road 658. Large populations of deer, elk, and bighorn sheep inhabit the area. LaBonte Canyon has several trails open to ATVs, horses, bicycles, and hikers. The Curtis Gulch Campground is located at the end of the canyon. Also, there are many beautiful undeveloped campsites available along LaBonte Creek.

**BLACK MOUNTAIN** – Black Mountain is located off Forest Road 633 in Harris Park. The Black Mountain Lookout Tower on top of the peak is accessible by a rugged 3.5-mile long 4-wheel drive road. The tower was built by the Forest Service in 1958 and is now on the National Historic Lookout Register. Black Mountain is one of the few fire lookouts still in operation in the United States and is open from June until October. Visitors are welcome!

**ASHENFELDER BASIN** – Wilderness without the official designation, this area encompasses the western, northern, and eastern sweep around Laramie Peak. New trails have made accessing this wild country safer and easier, but still offer solitude and challenge. The best access trails to the basin are the Roaring Fork Trail west of Black Mountain and Harris Park Trail east of Black Mountain.

## HAHNS PEAK/BEARS EARS RANGER DISTRICT

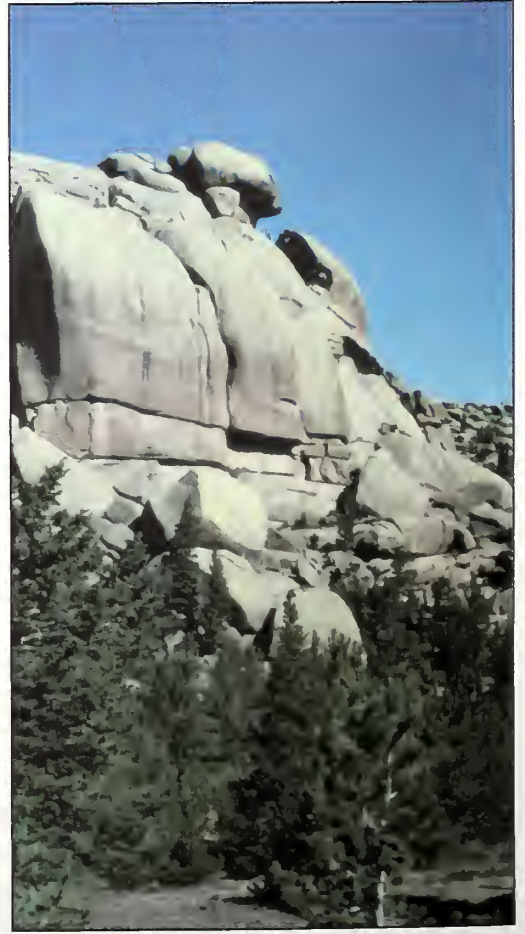
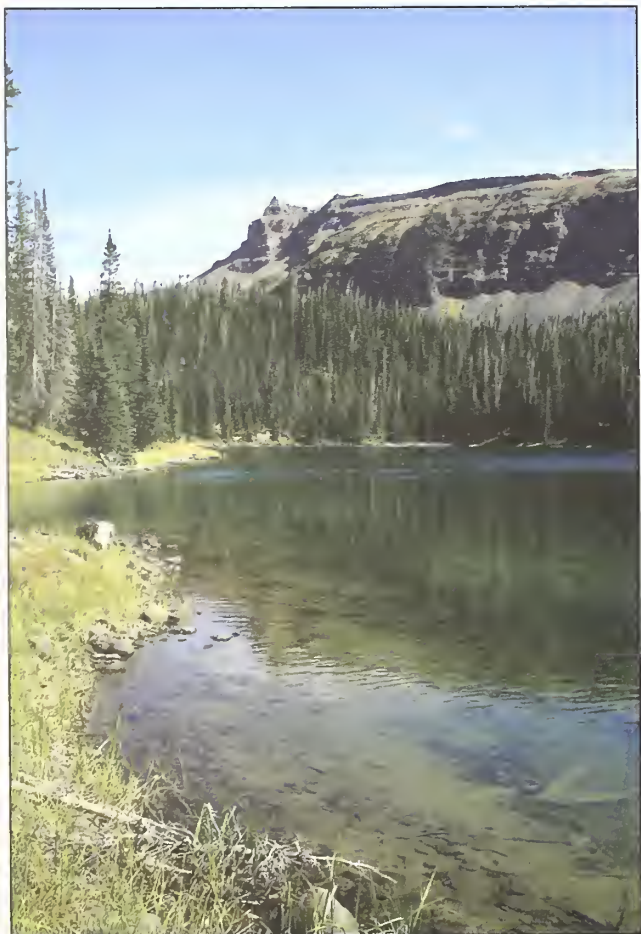
Located in Steamboat Springs, CO, the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District provides information about camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, four-wheeling and a variety of winter recreation activities in partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Yampatika Educational Partners. The District Office provides one stop to purchase hunting or fishing licenses, participate in an educational program or shop. Visitors can buy maps and field guides for outdoor recreational use.

Stop in and find out about some of Colorado's finest lake and stream fishing or where to view mountain wildflowers blooming from spring through summer. In the fall, trees and shrubs exhibit spectacular colors. Northwest Colorado offers some of the best trophy hunting areas in the state and public access to hunt is readily available. Rules for the Colorado hunting season change each year, so be sure to get the most current information by contacting our office.

**FISH CREEK FALLS** – This spectacular 283 foot waterfall is located just 15 minutes from downtown Steamboat Springs. Interpretive signs, a picnic area, and restrooms are available. The day use fee is \$5.00. This fee is covered by the \$30.00 annual pass and the America the Beautiful passes.

**BIG AND LITTLE RED PARKS** – Big and Little Red Parks are located 30 miles north of Steamboat Springs, just south of the Wyoming border. Opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and ATV and motorcycle riding are found on an extensive trail and road network. There are also several historic trails such as the Ellis Trail (#1155) and the Wyoming Trail (#1101) that are a part of the area's mining and logging history.

**BEARS EARS** – The Bears Ears country is located northeast of Craig, CO. This area offers outstanding opportunities for hunting big game such as deer and elk. A scenic loop can be made by traveling on Forest Road 110, County Road 82, and County Road 80 through California Park.





# LARAMIE RANGER DISTRICT

**MEDICINE BOW RAIL TRAIL** – 21 mile non-motorized trail converted from a portion of the abandoned Laramie, Hahns peak, and Pacific railroad. The trail is hardpacked gravel with grades and curves suitable for uses of various abilities. Most trailheads have accessible vault toilets and picnic tables.

**SNOWY RANGE SCENIC BYWAY** – The Snowy Range Scenic Byway crosses the Medicine Bow Mountains and includes 27 miles of the National Forest portion of Wyoming Hwy 130. Approachable from the east or west off Interstate 80, the Laramie and Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger Districts share the Byway. The route rises from 8,000 feet on the valley floor to a height of 10,847 feet at Snowy Range Pass. Nearby Medicine Bow Peak towers 12,013 feet above the scenic byway.

On this drive, travelers are close enough to Medicine Bow Peak to explore the year-round snowfields. Even in summer, these snowfields glisten along the peaks face. It is easy to see how this part of the mountain range got its name.

Vegetation along the Byway ranges from sagebrush prairie at the lower elevations to lodgepole pine at mid elevations. At higher elevations, the lodgepole pine gives way to spruce-fir forests and alpine tundra. In summer, wildflowers carpet the alpine meadows. Visitors have opportunities to view birds, moose, elk, deer, pronghorn antelope, and smaller mammals such as marmots, beaver, pikas, and pine martens. There are many small lakes nestled against high escarpments that are home to rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout.

The Byway is open from Memorial Day through October, weather permitting. The Centennial Visitor Information Center is located on the eastern Forest boundary and is open during the summer. For fall and winter hours, call the Laramie Ranger District. Maps, brochures, passes, permits, books, and schedules for interpretive programs are also available at this visitor center.

The Byway is a popular recreation attraction with many picnic, camping, observation, and interpretive facilities. There are several hiking trails accessible from the Byway including a trail up to Medicine Bow Peak. The upper portion of this trail traverses large boulder fields that make it a difficult hike for small children.

Facilities accessible to people with disabilities are available at Barber Lake, and Lake Owen. Barber Lake has an accessible fishing area and Lake Owen has a floating boat dock.

**VEDAUWOO** – The jumbled rocks of Vedauwoo are located on the Pole Mountain Unit between Laramie and Cheyenne directly off Interstate 80. This is a popular area for hiking, biking, and camping. Visitors may reserve the gazebo for picnicking by calling (307) 745-2300. Firewood may be gathered but not cut from dead standing trees in this area. Also, firewood may not be removed from this part of the Forest but may be used for campfires on site. All off-road travel by motorized vehicles is prohibited in this area.

# PARKS RANGER DISTRICT

**BIG CREEK LAKES** – This popular recreation area is 35 miles northwest of Walden. Lower Big Creek Lake has a 54-unit campground on the shoreline. Nineteen sites within the Big Creek Campground can be reserved.

The Seven Lakes trailhead is at the north end of the Big Creek campground and is the beginning of the 1 mile Red Elephant Nature Trail. This nature trail features 25 points of interest and ends at Upper Big Creek Lake. The Seven Lakes trail continues one mile past the lake to Big Creek Falls and the boundary of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness Area. Seven Lakes is seven miles from the campground.

**TELLER CITY** – The Teller City Interpretive Site is southeast of Walden. Teller City is an abandoned silver mining town established in 1879. A ¾ mile accessible loop trail guides you through several building foundations and scattered artifacts. Interpretive signs explain the colorful history of the area.

**MOOSE** – Moose are often seen on the Parks Ranger District. The best areas to spot them are in the Illinois River drainage and the Michigan River drainage. Moose are solitary animals. Please respect them and keep your distance. They will not hesitate to defend themselves or their young if they feel threatened.

# THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLAND

**FIDDLEBACK AREA** – The Fiddleback area is a large area of prairie on the Thunder Basin National Grassland located between Douglas and Gillette, WY. The area includes the Cheyenne River Valley with the Red Hills and Rochelle Hills surrounding the area to the west and north. It is a haven for eagles, raptors, deer, elk, and antelope. To access this area, take Hwy 59 to Bill and then take the Steinle Road turnoff (a good gravel road). Follow Steinle Road to the Dull Center Road up through the Fiddleback Ranch. You can return to Hwy 59 via the Steckley Road.

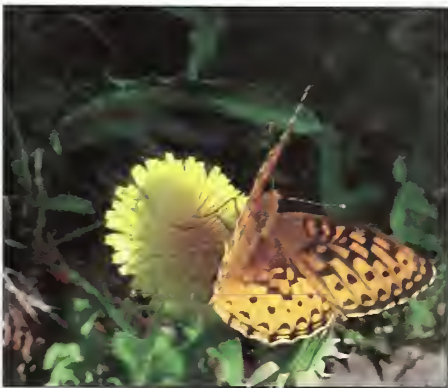
**UPTON/OSAGE RECREATION AREA** – The Upton/Osage area is located in the far northeast part of Wyoming between Gillette and Newcastle. This Grassland area forms the foothills of the Black Hills to the east. It offers a variety of terrain including low sage/grass plains and thick pine-covered hills. Year-round fishing is the recreational highlight of the area. Several reservoirs are stocked with small-mouthed bass and trout. For hikers and dirt-bike riders, there are nearly 19 miles of good trail that wind through the hills and plains for a challenging hike or ride.

**SPRING CREEK UNIT** – The Spring Creek unit is considered a “satellite” of the Grassland. This parcel of land is located north of Gillette and extends almost to the Montana border. Popular activities in this area include 4-wheeling, wildlife viewing, hiking, and hunting. In addition to recreation opportunities offered on this remote portion of the National Grassland, there are more activities available on nearby Bureau of Land Management lands. These lands make Spring Creek an attractive get-away.

# YAMPA RANGER DISTRICT

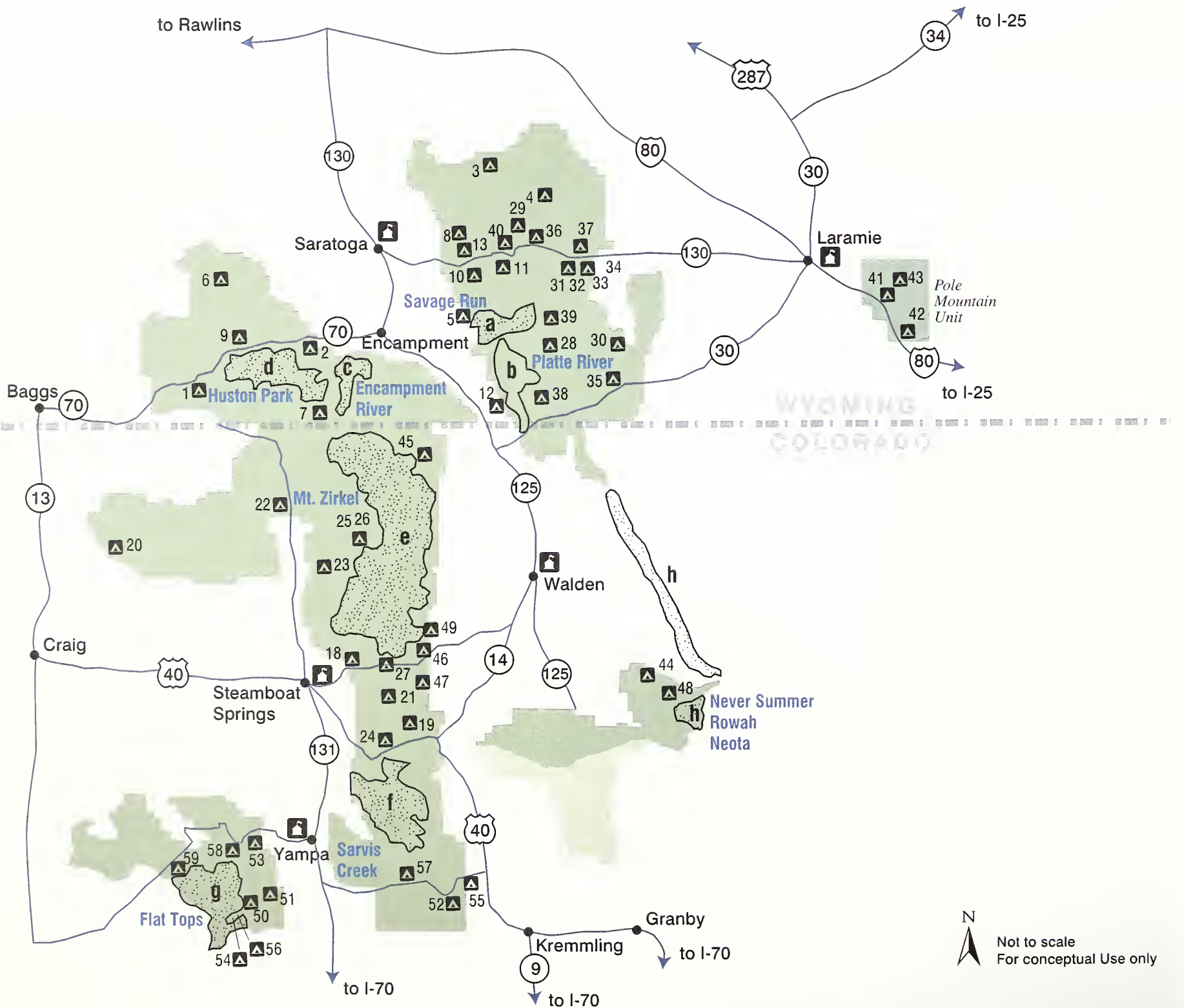
The Yampa Ranger District is home to two wilderness areas which provide abundant opportunities for camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing. Over 200 miles of trails for hikers, horses and pack animals, skiers, and snowshoers weave through the heart of the **FLAT TOPS WILDERNESS**. The **SARVIS CREEK WILDERNESS** offers crystal clear streams, rich animal habitat, and for history buffs, the remains of historic log flumes. Off of scenic Gore Pass, cyclists of all abilities can find something to match their needs on backcountry roads and trails. Four OHV trails are maintained on the district to accommodate ATVs and motorcycles.

**FLAT TOPS TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY** – The Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway crosses the northern Flat Top Mountains between Yampa and Meeker. Approximately 40 miles of this 82-mile byway is gravel road with some hairpin turns and high passes. It is passenger-car friendly, but in spring and fall, travelers should check conditions before going. Bring your binoculars for this 2 ½ hour trip. There are fantastic panoramic views and opportunities to see wildlife such as marmots, eagles, elk, mule deer, and grouse. Wildflowers fill the alpine meadows in June and July. The byway is open from June through October, depending on weather. Gas and other services are available only in Yampa, Buford and Meeker. Stop in or call the Yampa Ranger District, in Yampa, Co for brochures, maps, and information from the friendly visitor center staff.






Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests  
Thunder Basin National Grassland



# Campgrounds

Ranger District	 ON MAP	Campground	Season (Variable)	Elevation (feet)	Number of Sites	Max Vehicle/Trailer Size (feet)	Notes	Fee (Subject to Change)
BRUSH CREEK/ HAYDEN	1	Battle Creek	6/10-10/31	7,800	4	16	F	0
	2	Bottle Creek	5/27-10/31	8,800	12	45	F	\$10.00
	3	Bow River	6/10-9/8	8,600	13	32	F	\$10.00
	4	Deep Creek	6/10-9/8	10,200	12	22	F	\$10.00
	5	French Creek	6/10-9/8	8,000	11	32	F	\$10.00
	6	Jack Creek	6/10-10/31	8,500	16	22	F	\$10.00
	7	Hog Park	6/15-9/8	8,400	50	30	R, F, B, (HP,E,IC)	\$10.00
	8	Lincoln Park	5/27-10/31	7,800	12	32	F	\$10.00
	9	Lost Creek	5/27-10/31	8,800	10	22	F	\$10.00
	10	Ryan Park	5/27-10/31	8,000	48	32	R, F	\$10.00
	11	Silver Lake*	Closed Indefinitely	10,400	17	32	F, B (HP)	\$10.00
	12	Sixmile Gap	5/1-10/31	8,000	9	32	F	\$10.00
	13	S. Brush Creek	5/27-10/31	7,900	20	32	F	\$10.00
DOUGLAS	14	Campbell Creek	6/01-10/31	8,200	8	22	A, No Water	\$ 5.00
	15	Curtis Gulch	6/15-10/31	6,600	6	22	A, F	\$10.00
	16	Esterbrook	5/15-10/31	6,500	12	22	A	\$10.00
	17	Friend Park	6/01-10/31	7,400	11	22	A, F, No Water	\$10.00
HAHNS PEAK/ BEARS EARS	18	Dry Lake	6/10-11/15	8,000	8	16	No Water	\$10.00
	19	Dumont Lake	6/25-10/31	9,500	22	40	F, B (HP,E)	\$12.00
	20	Freeman Reservoir	6/15-11/15	8,800	17	25	F, B (HP,E)	\$12.00
	21	Granite*	See Below	10,200	8	22	F, B (HP,E) No Water	\$10.00
	22	Hahns Peak Lake*	See Below	8,500	25	40	R, F, B (HP,E), No Water	\$10.00
	23	Hinman Park	6/10-10/15	7,600	13	22	F	\$12.00
	24	Meadows	7/1-10/31	9,300	30	40	No Water	\$10.00
	25	Seedhouse*	6/15-10/31	8,000	24	25	F	\$12.00
	26	Seedhouse Group Site*	6/15-9/30	8,000	8	30	R, A, F	\$100.00
LARAMIE	27	Summit Lake	7/10-9/30	10,300	16	18	F, B (HP) No Water	\$10.00
	28	Bobbie Thomson	6/01-10/15	8,800	18	32	F	\$10.00
	29	Brooklyn Lake	7/15-10/01	10,500	19	22	R,F,B (HP)	\$10.00
	30	Lake Owen	6/01-10/15	9,000	35	22	F,B (HP,E,IC)	\$10.00
	31	Libby Creek - Aspen	6/01-10/15	8,600	8	22	F	\$10.00
	32	Libby Creek - Pine	6/01-10/15	8,600	6	16	F	\$10.00
	33	Libby Creek - Spruce	6/01-10/15	8,600	8	16	F	\$10.00
	34	Libby Creek - Willow	6/01-10/15	8,600	16	22	R,F	\$10.00
	35	Miller Lake	6/01-10/15	9,100	7	22	F,B (HP)	\$10.00
	36	Nash Fork	7/01-10/15	10,200	27	22	F	\$10.00
	37	North Fork	6/15-11/01	8,600	60	30	R,F	\$10.00
	38	Pelton Creek	6/15-10/15	8,100	15	16	F	\$10.00
	39	Rob Roy	6/15-10/01	9,500	65	35	F, B (HP,E,IC)	\$10.00
	40	Sugar Loaf	7/15-10/01	10,700	16	22	R, F, B (HP)	\$10.00
	41	Tie City	5/15-11/01	8,600	18	32	F	\$10.00
	42	Vedauwoo	5/05-11/01	8,200	28	32	A, F	\$10.00
PARKS	43	Yellow Pine	5/15-10/01	8,400	19	32	F	\$10.00
	44	Aspen	5/25-9/21	8,900	7	20	F	\$10.00
	45	Big Creek Lakes	6/15-9/8	9,000	54	32	R, F, B (HP,E,IC)	\$10.00
	46	Grizzly Creek	5/25-9/21	8,500	12	50	-	\$ 5.00
	47	Hidden Lakes	6/15-9/21	8,900	9	50	F, B (HP,E)	\$10.00
	48	Pines	5/25-9/21	9,200	11	50	F	\$10.00
YAMPA	49	Teal Lake	6/5-9/21	9,000	17	25	R, F, B (HP,E)	\$10.00
	50	Bear Lake	6/1-10/1	9,700	43	30	A, F, B (HP,E)	\$10.00
	51	Bear River Dispersed	6/1-11/01	9,200 to 10,200	30	varies	F, No water or toilet	\$ 3.00
	52	Blacktail Creek	6/1-11/01	9,000	8	22	F	\$10.00
	53	Chapman Reservoir	6/15-11/01	9,300	12	22	A, F, B (HP,E)	\$ 5.00
	54	Cold Springs	6/1-11/01	10,200	5	30	A, F	\$10.00
	55	Gore Pass	Closed Indefinitely	9,500	12	25	-	\$10.00
	56	Horseshoe	6/15-11/01	10,100	7	25	F	\$10.00
	57	Lynx Pass	6/1-11/01	9,000	11	18	A, F	\$10.00
	58	Sheriff Reservoir	6/15-11/01	9,700	5	18	F, B (HP,E) No Water	\$ 5.00
	59	Vaughn Lake	6/15-11/01	9,500	6	18	F, B (HP,E) No Water	\$ 5.00

- ALL CAMPGROUNDS have toilets and water unless otherwise noted. THERE ARE NO electric or water hookups or showers.
  - OPENING DATES of campgrounds depend on weather conditions and snow removal. Please call district offices for confirmation of dates.
  - STAY LIMIT in all campgrounds is 14 consecutive days.
  - DOGS are allowed in campgrounds; however, they must be on a leash.
  - HORSES are not allowed in campgrounds.
  - \*Hahns Peak Lake is closed for renovation and the tentative reopening date will be summer of 2009. Granite Campground may be closed for summer of 2008. Seedhouse and Seedhouse Group Campgrounds will be closed fall 2008 for maintenance. Please call Ranger District for updated information.
- (R) RESERVATIONS may be made at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service at (877) 444-6777, TDD: 877-833-8777.

(A) ACCESSIBLE site(s) and toilet(s) available

(F) FISHING

(B) BOATING (HP=Hand-powered, E=Electric Motors allowed, IC=Internal Combustion Motors allowed)
- \*\* Please note that some campgrounds may be affected by the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic and sites may be impacted by ongoing removal of hazard trees or other maintenance work. Please call ranger district for latest conditions and updates.



# Wilderness Areas



With the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, Congress created the National Wilderness Preservation System and designated certain lands as Wilderness. These areas are managed to preserve their natural conditions and wild character for present and future generations.

They possess outstanding ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic or historic values. All or parts of 10 wildernesses are located on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests. Additional information is available at District offices or at [www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/recreation/wilderness/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/recreation/wilderness/index.shtml)

The SAVAGE RUN WILDERNESS (a) is located on the Laramie Ranger District. Elevations vary from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. Steep-sided canyons are located at low elevations while rolling, plateau-like terrain can be found at higher elevations. The Savage Run Trail traverses the wilderness along Savage Run Creek.

The PLATTE RIVER WILDERNESS (b) is located on the Laramie, Brush Creek / Hayden and Parks Ranger Districts. The average elevation is 7,700 feet. The Platte River is a blue ribbon trout fishing stream and is a popular waterway for rafting and kayaking.

The ENCAMPMENT RIVER WILDERNESS (c) is located on the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District and has an average elevation of 7,800 feet. The Encampment River flows through a narrow rugged canyon and varies from narrow, rushing rapids to calm, smooth stretches. The hike along the river offers views of historical mines and cabins.

The HUSTON PARK WILDERNESS (d) is located on the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District. The terrain rises to an elevation of 10,500 feet and contains alpine bogs, spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen forests. The Huston Park Trail/Continental Divide National Scenic Trail traverses the wilderness and offers panoramic, high-country views.

The MT. ZIRKEL WILDERNESS (e) is located on the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears and Parks Ranger Districts. The Wilderness is home to the headwaters of the Elk, Encampment and North Platte rivers, some 70 lakes, high mountain peaks (including 12,180-foot Mount Zirkel for which it is named) and a portion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. It encompasses the rugged Sawtooth Range and portions of the Park and Sierra Madre ranges.

The SARVIS CREEK WILDERNESS (f) is located on the Yampa Ranger District. The rugged, heavily wooded terrain rises from 7,004 to 10,734 feet. Visitors may enjoy a tumbling waterfall, a moist meadow or historic logging camp remains by following the Sarvis and Silver Creek Trails.

The FLAT TOPS WILDERNESS (g) is shared by the Yampa Ranger District and the White River National Forest. It is home to the Yampa River headwaters as well as many high alpine lakes. Elevations range from 7,640 to 12,354 feet. This is the 2nd largest Wilderness Area in Colorado.

The Parks Ranger District shares the management of the NEVER SUMMER, RAWAH, and NEOTA WILDERNESS (h) Areas with the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests.

## BACKCOUNTRY ETHICS

Wilderness is for you to use and enjoy but you must do your part to protect it. Practice Leave No Trace techniques to minimize your impact on the land and other visitors. More information is available at [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).

**CAMPING** – choose an existing campsite at least 200 feet from lakes, streams and trails.

**CAMPFIRES** – use a camp stove instead of a fire. If you must have a fire, be at least 200 feet or posted distance from lakes, streams and trails; use an existing fire ring or build a low-impact mound fire.

**SANITATION** – bury human waste 6-8 inches deep at least 200 feet from lakes or streams. Do all washing with biodegradable soap at least 200 feet from lakes or streams. Pack out all garbage and leftover food.

**TRAILS** – stay on existing trails and avoid shortcutting switchbacks.

## WILDERNESS REGULATIONS

Regulations are in effect to protect the land and the primitive experience.

Wilderness regulations vary between areas. Please learn them before entering. Check with district offices for more information. The following regulations apply to all wildernesses on the forest.

**MOTORIZED/MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT** – All forms of motorized equipment and mechanical transport are not allowed. This includes motorcycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, aircraft, bicycles, game carts, chain saws, etc.

**GROUP SIZE** – group size may not exceed a combination of 25 people and livestock with the maximum number of people being 15.

**PETS** – pets must be under voice or leash control at all times to prevent harassment of wildlife and other visitors.

## SAFETY

- Plan your route. Let a responsible party know your plans. Carry appropriate topographic maps and compass and know how to use them. Sign in at trail registers.
- Prepare for extremes in weather. Bring the equipment necessary to stay warm and dry. Lightning is common in the summer. Avoid exposed areas, lone trees and shallow caves during storms.
- Hazardous organisms exist in backcountry water. Water from all backcountry sources should be treated before drinking it.
- Carry first aid and emergency supplies and know how to use them.
- Sunglasses and sunscreen are recommended.

## Roads and Weather

For the latest road and weather information . . .

### ROAD INFO:

Wyoming: (888) WYO-ROAD (in state)  
[www.wydotweb.state.wy.us](http://www.wydotweb.state.wy.us)

Colorado: (877) 315-7623 (in state, but not in Denver)  
(303) 639-1111 (Denver or out of state)  
[www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org)

### WEATHER INFO:

Wyoming: [www.crh.noaa.gov/cys](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/cys)  
Colorado: [www.crh.noaa.gov/den](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/den)





# Federal Passes

ANNUAL DAY USE PASS (for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests):

- Available to anyone
- The cost is \$30/year
- Good from January 1 – December 31
- Good for day use fees such as trailhead parking, picnic grounds and boat ramps on the Medicine Bow and Routt National Forests.

## AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES:

These Interagency passes offer unlimited coverage of entrance and standard amenity recreation fees on public lands managed by the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Passes covers pass holder and occupants of a single private vehicle, or passholder and three additional persons 16 and older where per person fees are charged. There is no fee for children 15 and under.

- Annual Pass (Replaces Golden Eagle Passport)**
    - The cost is \$80 for one year from month of purchase.
    - This pass is available to the general public.
    - Covers entrance and standard recreation fees.
  - Senior Pass (Replaces Golden Age Passport)**
    - The cost is \$10 for lifetime.
    - This pass is available to seniors 62 and older.
    - Covers entrance and standard recreation fees.
    - May entitle pass holder to 50% off of certain fees – check with agency.
  - Access Pass (Replaces Golden Access Passport)**
    - This pass is free.
    - The pass is available to citizens with permanent disabilities.
    - Proof of disability required at time of request.
    - Covers entrance and standard recreation fees.
    - May entitle pass holder to 50% off of certain fees – check with agency.
- What is not covered – Expanded Amenity Fees such as camping, RV hookups, boat launching, tours or concessionaire fees.

# Cabins & Lookouts

There are three facilities available for rent on the Laramie Ranger District: the Spruce Mountain Lookout Tower, Keystone Ranger Station, and Little Brooklyn Lake Guard Station. On the Douglas Ranger District, the La Prele Guard Station can be rented.

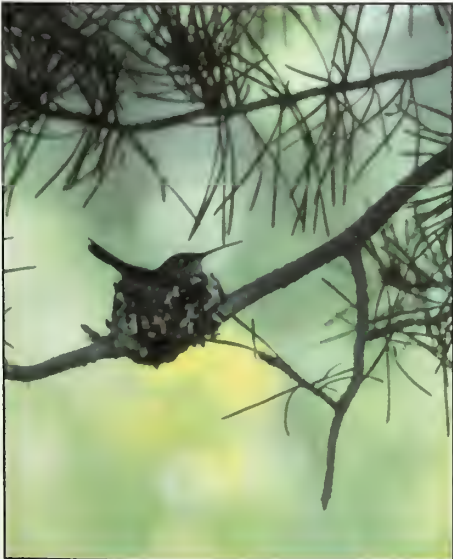
On the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District, there are five facilities that can be rented: the Jack Creek Guard Station, Jack Creek Crew Quarters, Sandstone Cabin, Snow Survey Cabin, and Brush Creek Barracks (winter only).

The Seedhouse Guard Station is available on the Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District. The Grizzly Creek Guard Station is available on the Parks Ranger District.

Reservations can be made at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the National Recreation Service at (877)-444-6777, TDD: 877-833-8777, Intl: 581-855-3639.

# Moonwalks

Throughout the year, forest visitors enjoy a natural history program and walk once a month under a full moon. Join naturalists and storytellers and prepare yourself for an evening of exploration and wonder. Most walks are conducted on the Laramie Ranger District. Please call 307-745-2300 for schedules and more information.



# Forest Product Permits

Permits are required to remove forest products. For more information, please call district offices.

- firewood
- posts & poles
- ferns
- rocks
- tree transplants
- Christmas trees
- mushrooms

# Maps Available

The following maps are available at district offices, by phone order or by mail. These maps show important information such as public and private land delineation, wilderness, roads, access to public lands, streams, lakes, campgrounds, picnic grounds, trails and travel regulations.

- Routt National Forest - \$10 plastic\*
- Medicine Bow National Forest - \$10 plastic\*
- Thunder Basin National Grassland - \$10 plastic\*
- Colorado Wilderness - \$3
- Wyoming Wilderness - \$3
- Laramie Peak Unit - \$10 plastic\* and Pole Mountain travel - \$1 are sold at nearby districts.
- Other Forest Maps in Rocky Mountain Region - \$9 paper, &10 plastic
- Motor vehicle use maps (MVUMs) are available for most ranger districts. These maps are FREE and show complete, up-to-date information on where motorized vehicles may go.

\* Plastic maps are folded and are water and tear resistant

To order a map by phone, call the district where you are going (listed on the front page of this guide.) To order maps by mail, send a check or money order payable to U.S. Forest Service for the amount of the map(s), (no shipping or handling charges), along with the names of the maps, your mailing address and your phone number to: Medicine Bow-Routt NFs, Attn: Visitor Information, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, WY 82070.

# Safety

**CAMPFIRES:**  
Fires may be limited or prohibited at certain times, due to dryness and other weather conditions. For current restrictions, please contact the district office. You are responsible for knowing these restrictions and keeping your campfire under control. Do not leave fires unattended and be sure your fire is completely extinguished before leaving or going to sleep.

**PETS AND ANIMALS:**  
Pets must be leashed in campgrounds and day use areas. In other Forest and Grassland areas they must always be under control, by voice or on a leash. Under no circumstances is chasing/harassing of wildlife allowed.

**FIREWORKS:**  
The possession and use of fireworks or other explosives is prohibited in National Forests and Grasslands.

**IN GENERAL:**  
Please be careful!!! Emergency services in remote settings are not readily available. It is your responsibility to know the hazards and to use the proper safety procedures and equipment to minimize the inherent risks associated with your activities.





From: U.S. Forest Service  
Medicine Bow-Rout National Forests  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
2468 Jackson Street  
Laramie, WY 82070-6535

## Cooperating Organizations



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURE ASSOCIATION**  
PO Box 3100  
Estes Park, CO 80517  
(970) 586-0108  
[www.rmna.org](http://www.rmna.org)



**YAMPATIKA**  
PO Box 773342  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477  
(970) 871-9151  
[www.yampatika.org](http://www.yampatika.org)



**WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH**  
5400 Bishop Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82006  
(307) 777-4600  
[gf.state.wy.us](http://gf.state.wy.us)



**COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216  
(303) 297-1192  
[wildlife.state.co.us](http://wildlife.state.co.us)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# Noxious Weeds

AUG 30 2011



*Leafy Spurge*

## What are they?

Noxious weeds are aggressive, invasive plants which when introduced into an area, reproduce and spread quickly, pushing out native plants. They can withstand harsh conditions such as drought, climate extremes, and poor soils. Some of these weeds are toxic to livestock and all of them cause significant economic and ecological impacts.

## Why are they bad?

These plants destroy wildlife habitat by pushing out native plant species that wildlife need for survival. Many of them use water at a high rate, depleting precious water supplies and damaging aquatic wildlife habitat. Finding it impossible to compete, two thirds of all endangered species are affected by these weeds.

## How do they spread?

They spread at an alarming rate by water, wind, and by hitchhiking on people, animals, and vehicles. Outdoor recreationists and workers inadvertently spread noxious weeds by picking up seeds on their clothing, pets and equipment. Untreated hay and grain products are ideal transport for weed seeds and invasive weeds are often sold commercially as ornamental plants.



*Spotted Knapweed*



*Dalmatian Toadflax*

## How do they affect you?

By destroying wildlife habitat, noxious weeds reduce your opportunities to view wildlife or enjoy activities such as hunting and fishing. Dense patches of weeds affect your access to recreational sites. Some weeds are very susceptible to wildfire – creating potential fire hazards, and other invasive weeds are poisonous to livestock. Controlling them costs US taxpayers approximately \$40 billion dollars per year.

## What is the Forest Service doing?

The Forest Service, along with other federal, local and state agencies, selectively uses herbicides, burning, and native plant seeding to combat the advance of noxious weeds. Controls are in place, such as limiting livestock grazing or recreational uses in infested areas, and requiring the use of certified weed free hay and processed feeds on public lands.

## What can you do?

Learn to identify invasive plants in your area. Avoid traveling through weed infested areas. Clean your clothing and equipment, including your shoe laces, before leaving recreational areas. Report noxious weed sightings to local, state, and federal land management agencies and double check with your county before planting non-native plants and trees. These actions will support the local, state and federal efforts to control invasive and noxious weeds.



*Cheatgrass*





## WHAT'S KILLING THE TREES?

The native Mountain Pine Beetle, no bigger than a grain of rice, is responsible for killing millions of acres of pine trees in the western United States. The fast moving beetle epidemic is bigger than any other in Central Rockies recorded history.

### Why?

This beetle epidemic was triggered by an extended drought, warmer winters, and aging forests. The resulting weak trees are perfect habitat for beetles, causing their populations to explode. As you travel through the forest, you may see entire landscapes turning red and brown as trees die.

### How?

Beetles bore into trees, lay eggs, and introduce a blue stain fungus which blocks the flow of water and ultimately kills the tree. Adult beetles emerge from infested trees the following summer, traveling up to several miles to attack new trees.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Although the beetle epidemic cannot be stopped, steps are being taken to lessen the impacts. Foresters are able to protect some high value areas, such as homes and campgrounds, by removing recently infested trees and using insecticides on individual trees.

### What about fire danger?

This significant change in the forest landscape will influence fire behavior. The U.S. Forest Service, other agencies, local communities, and property owners are working together to remove dead, dying and hazardous trees. This will help protect people, roads, trails, power lines, campgrounds, other facilities and critical watersheds.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

### A fresh start – the next forest

When the beetles run out of mature trees to infest, or beetle larvae die in an unusually cold winter, their populations will subside. Beetle epidemics are natural processes that cycle over time and are one of nature's ways of rejuvenating forests.

Mountain pine beetles don't usually attack small pines, or other tree species such as fir, aspen or spruce. These young trees will make up the next forest.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/barkbeetle/>